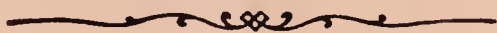


Wm. Sandford Johnson Comp.



TOTNES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Mr. Henry Sandford Johnson,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1896.





TO THE TOTNES

Rural District Council.

*Annual Report on the Sanitary state of the District
for the year ending December 31st, 1896.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the pleasure of laying my Annual Report before you, and in it you will find a resumé of the amount of sickness, also the number of Births and Deaths, as well as the principal sanitary works carried out during the year 1896.

I would point out for your information that for Sanitary purposes the Totnes Rural District is divided into two districts. No. 1 District comprises the parishes of Ashprington, Berry Pomeroy, Cornworthy, Churston Ferrers, Dittisham, Dartington, Halwell, Harberton, Morley, Marldon, Littlehempston, Kingswear, and Stoke Gabriel, the population of which, according to the Census of 1891, is 7,557, and the acreage 32,326 acres. The No. 2 District comprises the parishes of Buckfastleigh

West, Diptford, Dean Prior, Holne, Rattery, North Huish, Staverton, South Brent, and Ugborough, the population of which according to the census of 1891, being 5,904, and the acreage, 44,750 acres, the combined population of both districts being 13,461, and the combined acreage 77,076 acres.

During the year 1896 there were registered 170 deaths, 89 of which were males and 81 females, out of the above deaths 16 took place in the Plymouth Borough Asylum, Blackadon, Ugborough. These figures give a death-rate of 12·6 per thousand of the population, and which is by far the lowest death-rate which has been reported for many years, if ever before.

The greatest number of deaths took place in the months of January and August, when 16 and 17 were registered, and the smallest in September, when only nine were registered. Under one year 27 deaths were registered, from the 1st to the 5th year, 17; from the 5th to the 15th year, 2; from the 15th to the 25th year, 7; from the 25th to the 65th year, 50; from the 65th to the 80th year, 46; and above the 80th year, 21; 3 of whom were over 90 years.

The deaths were classified as follows:—From the Respiratory Organs, which includes Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy, 31; Phthisis, 8; Heart Disease, 18; Cancer, 5; Diarrhoea, 2; Enteric Fever, 4; Whooping Cough, 1; Puerperal Fever, 1; Injuries, 8; whilst from all other diseases 92 deaths were registered. I regret to have to report the 4 deaths from Enteric Fever, as last year no deaths were reported, but this year it will be noted that no deaths occurred from either Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Measles, or Membranous Croup. During the year 12 inquests were held.

During the year 1896 there were registered the birth of 131 boys and 134 girls, total 265, this compared with the number of deaths, 170, gives a natural increase of 95.

Under the Notification of Infectious Disease Act, there have been notified during the year 11 cases of Typhoid or Enteric Fever, 23 cases of Scarlet Fever, 6 cases of Diphtheria, 1 case of Puerperal Fever, 12 cases of Erysipelas, in all 50 cases as compared with 32 in 1895. Of the 11 cases of Typhoid Fever, six occurred at Dittisham, two were caused by an improperly trapped sewer in front of house, three I suspect were caused by eating cockles altho' I have not been able to trace it clearly to this source, and one case intervened on an attack of Bronchitis. The two cases of Typhoid at Harbertonford were caused by a dirty manure heap close to house, and a case at Holne was caused by drinking water from a disused well, and pigstye too close to dwelling house. There was also a mild case at Kingswear, which was caused by a leakage in sewer, and an unventilated W.C., while the cause of the case of Typhoid at Stoke Gabriel, I was unable to discover.

Of the six cases of Diphtheria, two at Dartington were caused by drinking dirty water. Two cases at South Brent were very mild, and the cases at Diptford and Ugborough were imported.

The 23 cases of Scarlet Fever were scattered over different parishes in the Districts, and at no time assumed an Epidemic form. The one case of Puerperal Fever was caused by the after birth being allowed to remain too long before removed.

Of the 50 cases reported, 32 occurred in the No. 2 District, and 18 in the No. 1.

It has not been considered necessary during the year 1896, to close the schools in consequence of any epidemic in any parish.

The summer and autumn of 1896 were extremely dry, which may in part account for the number of cases of Typhoid Fever reported, as the sewers could not be properly flushed for want of a sufficient supply of water.

Notwithstanding the extremely dry and hot time, the supply of drinking water in the different parishes held out very well.

During the year I have visited and given instructions in every case of Infectious disease reported to me, tested the water supply, examined the drains and sewers, and used every means to prevent the spread of the disease.

The following improvements were carried out during the past year :---

No. I DISTRICT.

ASHPRINGTON. Flushing tank at top end of village to carry off drainage, and which answers well.

DITTISHAM. Water supply extended on the Quay, and also to Higher part of the Town.

HARBERTONFORD. New well sunk and pump fixed.

In addition to the above new closets have been erected at Cornworthy, Halwell, Harberton, Marldon, Compton, and Stoke Gabriel.

No. 2 DISTRICT.

BUCKFASTLEIGH WEST. New drain at Runnaford Coombe.

DIPTFORD. New water supply which was recommended in my last annual report has been obtained, and is a great boon to the inhabitants.

UGBOROUGH. New water supply to the hamlet of Fillham, which was also recommended in my last year's report.

SOUTH BRENT. Completed water supply, which is now sufficient for fire purposes, in addition to ordinary household supply.

In addition to the above many new closets have been erected in several parishes.

In addition to the above several minor improvements in both districts have been carried out.

All slaughter houses and dairies have been frequently inspected, and cleanliness and ventilation insisted on.

Several applications for the occupation of new houses have been made, and where the water and drainage were satisfactory, certificates were given.

There was one prosecution during the year, for overcrowding at South Brent, in which a conviction was obtained. Other cases of overcrowding were reported, but abated without resorting to legal proceedings.

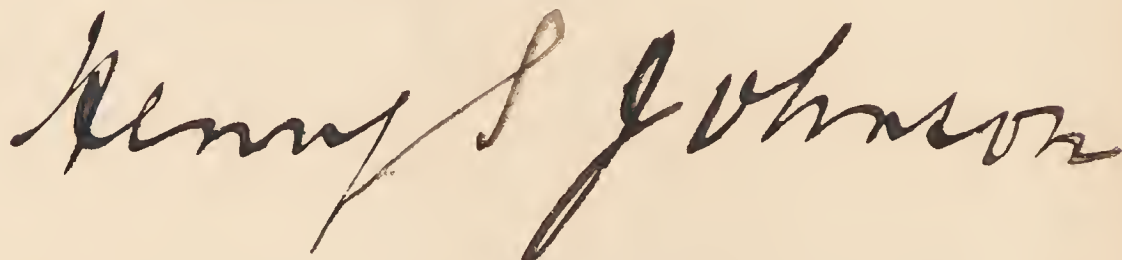
During the year 1896 I have had several hundred weight of disinfectants distributed to the different parishes, for purifying sewers, and which in my opinion, has been extremely beneficial.

It will be seen from the above report that several improvements have been carried out during the year, which shews that the Council are doing their utmost to put the districts under their control in a sanitary condition.

The Sanitary Inspectors have, as usual, carried out their duties in a satisfactory manner.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Henry S. Johnson". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Henry" and the last name "Johnson" being the most prominent parts of the signature.

Medical Officer of Health.

Buckfastleigh, February 27th, 1897.



(A) TABLE of DEATHS during the year 1896, in the TOTNES RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT, classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.) (a)									MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																
At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	*	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	Total.			
(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)																										
Totnes Rural Sanitary District ...	154	27	17	2	7	36	65	Undr 5 5 upwd						4			1					1	1		1	11			3	27	44		
														4			1					1		4	20	18		5	57	110			
Plymouth Borough Asylum, Blackadon, Ugborough ...	16	...	...	...	...	14	2																	3					13	16			
Totals ..	107	27	17	2	7	50	67	Undr 5 5 upwd						4			1					1	1		7	20	18		5	70	126		

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this return relates.			
Area in Acres	...	...	77,076
Population (1891)	...	...	13,461
Death Rates	General	...	12·6 per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1896
	Infant	...	101·08 per 1,000 Births Registered

Medical Officer of Health.
February 25th, 1897.

(B) TABLE of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year, 1896, in the TOTNES RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT; classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.										NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1896.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
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State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District? Yes. Since when? 1890. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated:—One at Blue Post, Harberton, other at Buckfastleigh West.



